

Pray give our united love to
Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

John Bal.

P.S.

I have written to Oliver
about the parcels that
have been so long lying
at Kew

Casa Parolini Bassano Veneto
28 Sept

My dear Gray - I fear that I
have never thanked you for your
interesting letter of the 26th July
& my conscience has been spared
by getting further your postcard of
the 4th Inst. Our fortunes this year
have been chequered - we had much
enjoyable weather in the Alps & were
fortunate in meeting friends & agreeable
acquaintances, both English & Italian
but the pleasure was marred by
an unfortunate accident - my wife
falling on some quite easy hurt
her foot ankle & so severely that
she does not yet after 7 weeks walk
freely & was for a month quite laid
up. In Switzerland I saw Casimir
Decandolle (Alphouse was away)
& I went to spend an evening with

My dear old friend Boissier
who was only just convalescent
from a very serious attack of
his old complaint - hemorrhage,
& inflammation in the stomach
which for some time kept him
in imminent danger ---
He is far advanced in the supplement
to his *Flora Orientalis*

We go in a week to Venice
to spend a week with the Lagards
& then for a week to Florence
getting back to London about
the end of October

You will read with some interest
Christ's article in Engler's *Bot Jahrbuch*
part 5, 1885 on the vegetation of the
Canary islands - Allowing for a
different appreciation of the limits
of genera & species on the part

of the author it is no. following
& it is certainly true - though you
may probably differ from some of
his conclusions -

It is high time that writers on geographical
distribution should cease to
include ferns & acolytes in
general - among the materials for
discussion & comparison - If anything
is certain as to the means of diffusion
of species it is that the spores of
acolytes may be transported over
indefinite spaces by air-currents
& that their presence or absence in
a given region gives no indication
of the probable origin of the flora
I may remember me kindly
to Mr Watson I hope to hear that
he has quite got over his attack

& we shall all join in wishing
prosperity to your work at the
Polytechnic -